ONE DAY's JOURNEY

TO THE

HIGHLANDS

OF

SCOTLAND.

MARCH 12. 1784.

ANTIQUAM EXQUIRITE MATREM.

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THE PREFACE.

THE following Day's Journey to the Highlands, was undertaken at the deſire of a Gentleman well known in the literary world; and who is particularly diſtinguiſhed by his knowledge of, and abilities in Gaelic Philology.

A Manuſcript Hiſtory of a certain Pariſh in the County of Perth, fell into the hands of this Gentleman;—in this Manuſcript, the Author gives a particular acccount of OSSIAN's ſtone, ſituated in Glenalmond.

About forty years ago, ſome ſoldiers when employed under the command of General Wade, in making the military road from Stirling to Inverneſs, through the Highlands, raiſed the ſtone by large engines, and under it was found a coffin full of burnt bones; the coffin was compoſed of four gray ſtones, ſuch as are mentioned in the Poems of Oſſian. That this was the matter of fact, can be atteſted by ſeveral perſons ſtill alive, and who were on the ſpot at, and lately after the removal of the ſaid monument.—Birt, in his Letters on the Highlands *, and Whitaker, in his Hiſtory of Mancheſter †, are both very particular,

* Vol. II. p. 299—300. † Vol. II. p. 142—143.

particular, as to this ſtone, and the cauſe of it's removal. To prove that this was Oſſian's grave, and monument, is not the buſineſs of the following performance. The writer will leave a diſquiſition of that nature, to thoſe who are more ſkilled in the Gaelic Language and Antiquities:—however, he preſumes to lay before the reader, the following account, which he gathered as far as he could learn, from ſome of the moſt intelligent perſons in Glenalmond, together with the correſponding teſtimony of thoſe in that neighbourhood.—The relations are not, however, ſo complete as he could have wiſhed, owing to the expedition he was obliged to make, in the courſe of one day's journey.

Before he conclude this addreſs, he is happy to find that ſome Noblemen and Gentlemen, of the firſt diſtinction, have undertaken the ſame Tour, with a view to diſcover any traces of Oſſian, and his monument, in this part of the country. Happier will he be, if this preſent attempt which he ventures to publiſh under the patronage of ſuch diſtinguiſhed characters, ſhall excite others to purſue and inveſtigate theſe reſearches into remote antiquity.

JOURNEY

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HIGHLANDS.

MARCH 12. 1784.

SET out from Perth about ſeven o'clock in the morning, in company with two young Gentlemen. About two miles from thence, we paſſed by the ancient caſtle of Huntingtower, formerly Ruthven-caſtle, which originally was the reſidence of the noble family of Ruthven for many ages. This family was further dignified by the title of Earl of Gowrie, and lived in this country in great ſplendour. Huntingtower now belongs to his Grace the Duke of Athole. This noble ſeat is environed with regular plantations of tall firs, and has ſpacions avenues leading to the caſtle from the eaſt, ſouth, and weſt.—Here is to be ſeen, tho' almoſt in ruins, the hall where King James the Sixth, and ſome of his nobles, are ſaid to have dined with the

Earl of Gowrie, not long before the alledged conſpiracy. In the gardens are many nut trees of conſiderable height, which are ſaid to have been brought from Spain, and planted by the Earl of Gowrie.

About two miles further on, we arrived at Methven-caſtle, the ſeat of David Smyth, Eſquire. Methven gave name to an ancient family, who had their ſeat and property there *, as early as the reign of Alexander the III. and flouriſhed in this country with great luſtre, for ſeveral generations afterwards; but the principal branch of the family removing to England, is now repreſented by Paul Methuen, Eſq; of Corſham, in Wiltſhire. Of this family alſo was the famous Sir Paul Methuen, who held many offices of importance in the ſtate, during the reigns of King William, Queen Anne, and King George the I. —Methven, through the Earl of Strathern, became a royal appanage of the crown; and in 1528, on the marriage of Henry Stewart, a cadet of the royal family, with the Queen Dowager of King James the IV. was erected into a Lordſhip in his favour, whoſe poſterity failing in the male line, the Lordſhip of Methven reverted to the crown, and by King James the VI. was beſtowed on the Duke of Lennox,

* Douglas' Baronage, p. 141.

Lennox, one of whoſe ſucceſſors ſold the ſame to the family of Smyth of Braco, ever ſince deſigned of Methven. Here we could not paſs over theſe grounds without remembering of the fatal battle of Methven, which is thus related by our hiſtorians:—Soon after the coronation of King Robert Bruce, at Scoon, in 1306, he encamped his ſmall force, near Methven, where he and his army were unfortunately ſurpriſed in the night of the 19th of July, by the Engliſh, aſſiſted by the Scots malecontents, under the command of the Earl of Pembroke. They forced, and made themſelves maſters of the camp. The greater part of the Scots army being newly levied, and conſequently raw and unexperienced, fled at the firſt onſet, and left the King and the Gentry to withſtand the attack of the Engliſh army. They made a glorious defence though at length obliged to retreat before their numerous aſſailants. King Robert was nearly made priſoner, but bravely reſcued by Sir Chriſtopher Seton. He fled to the Highlands, where he remained till next year, that he took the field, matters being changed in his favour.—The caſtle of Methven, which is ſituated farther weſt then formerly, is a very elegant building, kept in good repair; from it's ſituation to the ſouth, has a commanding pro-

ſpect

ſpect of the adjacent country; and, on account of a handſome turret on each ſide of the four angles, has the appearance of a ſquare fortreſs or caſtle.—The proprietor is very aſſiduous in making improvements upon his eſtate; and I could not help obſerving to my companions as we rode along, that the man that could raiſe ten ears of corn, where only one grew before, or ſix blades of graſs, deſerved more of his country than all the race of politicians put together. Before leaving Methven, it may be obſerved, that here there was a collegiate church, erected in 1433, by Walter Stewart Earl of Athole, one of the younger ſons of King Robert the II. who afterwards proved the infamous murderer of his nephew King James the I.

Four miles north-weſt from thence, ſtretches the moor of Methven, and we arrive at Buchanty, croſs over the water of Almond upon a bridge of one arch. Here the river runs between two jutting rocks forming a very deep lin or pool. We ſtopt at a village named Kinchraggan, eight miles from Perth; here we found the inhabitants ſpoke the Gaelic language, being on the north ſide of the Almond, while thoſe on the ſouth ſide ſpoke Engliſh: we breakfaſted here ſo well, that we believe the entertainment

would

would not have been diſagreeable, even to Dr Samuel Johnſon!

Here we got intelligence from a fox-hunter concerning the hill of Dun-mhor, or Caſtle Dun-mhor *.

After breakfaſt we proceeded upon our journey, accompanied by the miller of the next village, an intelligent honeſt man: about a quarter of a mile weſt from thence, we came to a plain moor, where we ſaw a great number of cairns †, or graves of the Caledonians or Danes; ſome of which are placed regularly in rows, one in particular, was on a riſing ground, and the ſtones raiſed above it were more numerous than any of the others; hence we conjectured that it behoved to be the grave of one of their chief officers; nigh this ſpot are viſible the burying-places of the Romans, or ſmall *tumuli*, covered with turf:—had our time allowed, it was our intention to have opened one of them in order to diſcover any Roman weapons, &c.

About a furlong from theſe cairns and *tumuli*, we arriv-

* From *dun*, hill, and *mhor*, great,—the caſtle of the great hill.

† Rude monuments conſiſting of ſmall ſtones heaped together, upon the graves, very irregular in bulk: their great men were diſtinguiſhed with great cairns, and ſo in order, according to their degree of ſubordination, their reſpective monuments preſent us with their rank and ſtation.

ed at the Roman camp, which is taken notice of in the map of the county, publiſhed laſt year by Mr Stobie. This camp is ſituated upon a high ſloping moor; part of the remains of the ditches and trenches are viſible. I could alſo perceive, where the *prætorium* ſtood. Hard by it runs the water of Almond, along the banks of which, there is a deal of natural wood.

After having ſatisfied ourſelves with viewing the Roman camp, we caſt our eyes to the other ſide of the river, where is to be ſeen a Roman houſe, in ruins, of a circular form, the walls of which are about two feet above the ſurface of the ground.—Having contemplated theſe objects, we proceeded towards a new bridge, which croſſes the water of Almond, and marched up the hill of Dun-mhor, which we found to be two miles of aſcent, obliquely, and about a quarter of a mile perpendicular height; near the top of which are viſible, the remains of a great many Caledonian * houſes, placed

* In ancient times the Scots, or Caledonians, placed their habitations upon the top of the higheſt hills, in order to prevent any ſudden ſurpriſe from their neighbouring clans: and to illuſtrate this, we find the veſtiges of ploughs, or ridges, and furrows, upon the higheſt hills, where graſs will not grow at preſent, the reaſon of which may be owing to this, That in theſe early ages this country was intirely overgrown with woods, the trees began to grow firſt in the vallies, and increaſed ſo as to reach the tops of the hills, by which means, the tops of

placed in an irregular manner. We then aſcended to the top of the hill, in order to view what the country people call a *Giant's caſtle*, but which I found to be a Caledonian, or Daniſh caſtle, of great ſtrength; it is ſurrounded with two rows of walls, the inſide part of the inner wall may be about two hundred feet in diameter, and about eight or nine feet thick, and the outer wall, about one thouſand feet in circumference. This hill has a commanding proſpect of Perth, where there was a Roman ſtation, and it may be conjectured, with ſome degree of probability, that the Romans took poſſeſſion of the hill, and placed an out-poſt here, in order to give their armies intelligence when the Caledonians were coming over their mountains. There is another Roman out-poſt upon the top of a hill two miles, north-eaſt from this fortification:—here we had

a

of the hills were kept warm; having choſen their ſituation here, they naturally collected their cattle nigh to their habitations, the dung of whom ſerved for manure, for the purpoſes of agriculture; within thirty or forty years, theſe woods growing upon hills generally decay for want of moiſture, and fall down of themſelves; on which account, the tops of the hills are ſo much expoſed to the cold air, ſo as to prevent any kind of vegetation: the inhabitants, in this caſe, were under the neceſſity of removing from mountain to mountain, until ſuch time as the country became more civilized, then they began to deſcend to the vallies, with their families and cattle; the conſequence was, that the hills were neglected, and the woods falling down to the vallies in ſuch number, ſo as to obſtruct the brooks, and drink in the winter rains, thereby rendering the ſoil ſoft and ſpungy, which has occaſioned peat moſſes.

a view of the Caledonian, or Grampian-hills, from whence the famous Galdus, or Galgacus, deſcended in order to repel the Roman arms. Deſcending from the hill upon the north, we found the ſnow very deep, and in ſome places we went to the knees in ſnow and moſs.—Having arrived at the foot of the hill, where our road was, we computed the hill to be about one mile of deſcent; here we parted with our kind guide, and proſecuted our journey to Amalrie * where there is a neat modern church, and manſe, as alſo a good inn: about two gun-ſhot from this place, on the other ſide of the water of Bran † is St Mary's chapel in ruins; from whence the place is ſaid to have derived it's name.

About two miles diſtant is Dean's-haugh, where there is a Druid's temple, twenty feet in diameter; not far from which is a village named Findoue-beg, where there is an old chapel dedicated to Fiann, or Fingal. In the ſame village lived a Duff, or Macduff, ground-officer to the Earl of Gowrie, in Strathbran, at the time he was unfortunately ſlain; he is ſaid to have been active in collecting the town's people of Perth,

* This place is called *Amalrie*, from it's being at a ford, called Ath-Mari, Mary's Ford.

† This water probably has it's name from Fingal's favourite dog.

Perth, with a deſign to reſcue the Earl of Gowrie, his maſter. At Findowie-more, in that neighbourhood, there is another Druid temple, upon a riſing ground, where, upon the firſt day of May, or Balden *, a fire was kindled in honour of the god Belus, or Baal, and where delinquents, tranſgreſſing the rules of the Druids, were obliged to walk bare-footed upon hot cinders, and likewiſe to do other penance.

There is an ancient Popiſh chapel named *Stuchd-chaibbal*, in the weſt-end of Weſter-Glenalmond, where ſixty men took the ſacrament, and went with their leader to the battle of Luncarty, of whom only three returned.

At Eaſter-Shian, in Glenquaich, there is a Popiſh chapel of ſome antiquity, and not far from which, on a fine plain, is Ach-na-cloich, i. e. *Stonyhaugh*, where there is a well, called *St Coittag's-well*, which was held in great veneration; for, long ſince, a great concourſe of people, both from England and Ireland, are ſaid to have aſſembled, and made uſe of this water, in order to be cured of their various diſeaſes: But

* The preſent name of Balden, is Beltane, and it is a cuſtom in ſome parts of the Highlands, to celebrate a feaſt upon this day; there is another cuſtom which prevails amongſt the youths upon this day, they kindle fires, and make up an image in form of an human body, and throw it into the fire, as a kind of ſacrifice to Baal, or Belus.

it appears, that the virtue of this water, is now principally confined to one diſeaſe, namely, the bloody-flux; at this well there was a ſmall chapel and cemitery. There is another well, not far from thence, called the *Well of Coreach*, to which ſome virtues are likewiſe aſcribed.

Having ſatisfied ourſelves with theſe objects, we returned to Amalrie; this place is well ſituated for game and fiſhing, and affords agreeable ſport in the proper ſeaſon. The ſcenes which alternately preſent themſelves to view, are of the moſt romantic and agreeable nature: thoſe confined to large cities will find here a pleaſant variety. This country is abundantly ſupplied with hares, foxes, partridges, wild-ducks, moor-fowl, and woodcock. Loch Fraochy abounds with fine trout, pikes, and perches, which are catched both with rod and nets; the waters of Bran and Almond, are alſo plentifully ſupplied with freſh-water trouts, perches, *&c.* There is a moſs betwixt Dalreoch and Amalrie, where are a great many otters, but vaſtly difficult to catch, becauſe the moſs abounds with ſmall rivulets, which run, for the moſt part, below the ſurface in a thouſand labyrinths, ſo that it is impoſſible to hunt them out of their ſubterranean abodes, unleſs by chance they venture too far from the moſs: about four years ago,

Glen-

Glenalmond abounded with wild-deer, roebucks, &c. Having dined at Amalrie, and enjoyed the agreeable company of the miniſter of the place, we returned upon our road to Perth; the firſt object that attracted our attention upon the right-hand, was Loch Fraochy, or Loch Bran, a beautiful baſon of water; in the ſouth-part of the Loch, is a ſmall iſland, in the middle of which is a tuft of trees; this Loch and iſland is the ſcene of the beautiful poem of Fraoch, which Mr Pennant makes mention of, but which he has, by miſinformation, placed at Lochow in Argyle.

We rode on until we arrived at the Newtown, a ſmall village, overtopped by a high ſtupenduous rock, at the back of this rock, and three miles ſouth from Amalrie, is Glenlochan, in a beautiful ſituation, in the middle of which is Loch Lochan, wherein are plenty of freſh-water trouts, pikes, and perches, alſo plenty of moor-fowl and wood-cock, upon the adjacent moor. Croſs over Almond, upon an old bridge of one arch, and ride down the narrow Glenalmond *, each ſide of which is for three miles over-

topped

* Daniel de Foe, in his Tour through Britain, Vol. IV. p. 210. obſerves, That the hollow through which the road to Inverneſs paſſes, is ſo narrow, and the mountains on each ſide ſo high, that the ſun is ſeen but two or three hours in the longeſt day.

topped by high impending rocks: the next object that drew our attention, was Clachan-Oſſian, or Cloch-Oſſian *, *i. e.* OSSIAN's ſtone, of uncommon ſize, it meaſured ſeven feet and an half in length, and five feet in breadth: about two feet from this ſtone are ſtill remaining the four gray ſtones, in which his bones are ſaid to have been depoſited,—this monument, and coffin, are ſurrounded by a circular dyke, two hundred feet in circumference, and three feet in height, through the middle of which, the military road to Inverneſs paſſes. One of the ſoldiers, when employed under the command of General Wade, in making the road, died near the ſpot, and was buried at the back of Cloch-Oſſian: it is a cuſtom to this day, when the ſoldiers are employed in repairing the military road, through this glen, that they lay freſh turf on their brother ſoldier's grave. This monument is two miles diſtant from any habitable place.

Many of the ancient Gaelic poems, make mention of Oſſian having reſided upon the water of Bran †, and at the head of Glenturret, in Monivaird pariſh, there is a ſhealing called *Rennacardich*, or the *Smith's-ſheal*, where is to be

* Or Cloch na h Uiſeaig, the Lark's ſtone.
† Manuſcript Hiſtory of Monivaird, p. 36.

be ſeen the foundation-ſtones of houſes, and what are ſaid to be large heaps of aſhes; and ſome of the old Gaelic poems of the country inform us, that there was an iron-work here, and that the ſwords and arms for Fingal's army, were made at Lochenlour, four miles in the valley below; that the iron was brought from this place, is further confirmed, from the peats caſt in that part of the country when burned in kilnpots, they leave a plate of yetlin amongſt the aſhes, which the country people call a *dander;* a tradition alſo prevails, that Oſſian was proprietor of part of Monivaird, a place that muſt in ancient times have been famous for Bards *.

About the middle of Glenalmond, and about three miles diſtant from Cloch-Oſſian, in a glen, named *Corriviarlich*, or the Glen of Thieves, is a cave known by the name of Fian, or Fingal's cave, though afterwards poſſeſſed by a race of thieves; the entry to this cave, is five feet in height, and four feet in breadth; the roof of which, in the middle, is about eighteen, or twenty feet high, and the length of this cave, is about thirty feet; this cave is overtopped by a high rock, or hill, and on the left ſide of the

* Monivaird, ſignifies the Bards-hill, or a Hillock of Bards.

door, or entry, is a large flat-ſtone, which is ſaid to have been drawn by the Fians, or Fingalians, to the mouth of the cave, as a defence from the cold, or wild-beaſts:— before the cave is a fine green plain, and an high pine-tree, three feet in diameter; the glen is proper for paſture, and may be about one mile long, and two miles broad.

There is another high hill, or rock, in Glenalmond, that overtops all the reſt, with a proud extended creſt, known by the name of *Sron na huath bhidh*, or the Noſe of the Cave; there is a great hollow under-ground, where it is ſaid, a giant once reſided, who entertained a malicious grudge againſt Fingal, when he dwelt at Fian-Theach.

Great many of the poems of Oſſian, tranſlated by Mr M'Pherſon, chiefly relate to Fingal's exploits in Ireland, and upon the north and weſt coaſt;—the rapid progreſs which the Saxon language made in the low country, from the days of Malcom Caenmore, not only rooted out the Gaelic language in that part of the country, but has alſo with it, no doubt, occaſioned the loſs of many of Oſſian's poems; there are ſtill, however, fragments in the ſame tranſlation, where frequent mention is made of Fingal's exploits upon the banks of Carron, in the county of Stirling.

" Beneath the voice of the king, we moved to Crona *
" of the ſtreams, Toſcar of graſſy Lutha, and Oſſian,
" young in fields. Three bards attended with ſongs.
" Three boſſy ſhields were borne before us: for we were
" to rear the ſtone, in memory of the paſt. By Crona's
" moſſy courſe, Fingal had ſcattered his foes: he had
" rolled away the ſtrangers, like a troubled ſea †."

Herodian, Dio, and other writers, make mention of the Emperor Severus' having paſſed the two walls, and fought in perſon with the Caledonians, and their leader, which beyond all probability muſt have been Fingal, and perhaps the above poem relates to that part of the hiſtory; it cannot, however, be imagined, that Fingal, who, at that time, anno 207, was chief of the Caledonians, could have remained inactive, when ſuch a powerful army was at hand; and indeed it appeared, that the invaſion of Severus had ſuch an effect upon the Caledonians, that they ſent ambaſſadors to ſue for peace, which was rejected: the

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* Mr M'Pherſon obſerves, That the word *Crona*, ſignifies *Murmuring*, and was the name of a ſmall ſtream which diſcharged itſelf into the river Carron; it is often mentioned by Oſſian, and the ſcenes of many of his poems, are on it's banks.—The enemies whom Fingal defeated are not here mentiond.

† Oſſian's poems, Vol. 1. p. 220.

conſequence was, that a bloody engagement commenced, in which the Caledonians proved victorious, and the Emperor returned with the loſs of about fifty thouſand men.

The Romans again made another effort againſt the Caledonians, under their leader Caracalla; Fingal met them upon the banks of Carron, where a battle enſued, in which the Romans were again defeated, with conſiderable loſs.

Alongſt the whole ſouth front of the Grampian-hills, the antiquary will meet with incredible remains of Roman camps, forts, (cauſeways, *tumuli*, &c.) raiſed againſt the Caledonians; which being the frontier country, it cannot with any degree of probability be contradicted, but that Fingal and his army might have often fixed their reſidence nigh theſe mountains, in order to watch the enemy. Selma, in Morven, which is ſaid to have been Fingal's chief reſidence, is only about ſixty computed miles diſtant from Glenalmond; and Oſſian, Fingal's ſon, would, no doubt, continue to rouſe the army after his father's death, by his martial example and warlike ſong; and probably chooſed to have his reſidence near the ſpot where there was the greateſt danger: the Roman camp, the forts and *tumuli*, nigh to Cloch-Oſſian, are evident proofs

proofs that this part of the country was the ſcene of action, ſo early as the time the Romans came into this part of the iſland.

Beſides what is above narrated, it may not be improper here to notice, That I made inquiry at ſeveral reſpectable clergymen, and others, in the neighbourhood of Glenalmond, who all agree in affirming, that the ſtone in queſtion, was known by the name of *Cloch-Oſſian*, beyond the memory of any living perſon; and, indeed, the names of places nigh this ſpot, will, in ſome inſtances, ſerve as further proofs: upon the other ſide of the Almond, and not far diſtant from the camp, is a ſmall village named *Fian-Theach*, i. e. Fingal's Thatch-houſe, or Hall, and at the weſt-end of Loch Fraochy, is a place named *Dail-Chillin*, or Fingal's Burial-place; whether this was Fingal's burial-place, or not, ſhall be left to the determination of the Gaelic critics.

The poems of Oſſian are acknowledged by every lover of the *beautiful* and *ſublime*, to contain in them the moſt animating and lofty ideas, calculated to inſpire the mind with heroic courage and virtue: the poets of after ages, fall far ſhort of the ſpirit and energy of Oſſian; hence it is, that the heroes of their poems, and their actions, are

not deſcribed in ſo bold and lofty a manner: from this falling off, has ariſen the many fabulous ſtories of giants which are ſo frequently to be met with in the Highlands. The Fingalian age is deſcribed as the age of giants: the warriors of after ages became gradually reduced from larger ſtature to ſmaller, until they were reduced to the preſent common ſtature: great actions and great bodies conſequently follow each other.

The many caves which we find in the Highlands, and which, to this day, are ſaid to be caves for the giants to reſide in, are with them ſtrong proofs for the authority of their fables; whereas, it is evident, that thoſe caves were places of ſafety in ancient times, when purſued by their enemies, or probably for places of reſidence, as we find is the caſe in Iceland, and many other countries even to this period; where the inhabitants live in caves, or dens, under rocks and under ground, which are not only the moſt proper places for ſecurity from their enemies, but are likewiſe better adapted for their preſervation from voracious animals, with which this country abounded at a period ſo early as the days of Oſſian; this country being at that time over-run with woods, afforded ſhelter to wolves and bears, enemies to the human race, and they had no

other

other place of ſafety for their reſidence, but either in theſe caves, or upon the tops of the hills. Hence it is, that there are few hills in the Highlands, but what have, to this day, veſtiges of caſtles and houſes; and which, in conformity to the former received notion of giants' caves, are called *Giant's-caſtles*, or the *Fian's-caſtles*, which may be eaſily underſtood to be caſtles poſſeſſed in the Fingalian age, or age of giant's, or mighty warriors. Agreeable to theſe notions, we often meet with long hillocks in the Highlands, which are called giants' graves; and which fables, if contradicted, will give them a conſiderable degree of diſpleaſure. In Glenalmond, there is a hillock of about one hundred feet in length, covered with heath, which is ſaid to be the grave of a child nine months old. Their idea of the ancient giants is ſuch, that they tell us ſome of them had ſpears, with which they could at one leap, go over to Ireland or Denmark; ſuch ſtories are better adapted for children than men of early years. Theſe hints will, however, in ſome meaſure, ſerve as a contraſt betwixt the fabulous and genuine poems of Oſſian, which can eaſily be diſtinguiſhed; in regard they bear in their front, the marks of the earlieſt antiquity; and, where genuine, will be found to be a real, not a fabulous hiſtory.

The

The Iriſh harpers, who frequented this country many years ago, brought over with them, many poems aſcribed to Oſſian, in which they frequently introduce *St Patrick*, as if he was cotemporary with Oſſian, who lived about the end of the third, and beginning of the fourth century; whereas, St Patrick is ſaid to have flouriſhed at the end of the fifth century. This, with their other fabulous legends, they have been ſo kind as to circulate in this country, are ſufficient proofs to induce the Iriſh to reſign every pretenſion to the boaſted merit of their country, as having given birth to OSSIAN, PRINCE OF GAELIC BARDS!

Before concluding the account of this glen, and neighbourhood, it may be obſerved, That the woods here were a harbour for wolves, ſo late as the beginning of the laſt century; and I have in my poſſeſſion, an authentic manuſcript, which mentions, that during the reign of King Charles the I. when the plague raged in this country and neighbourhood, a number of men in arms, were ſeen paſſing by the infected perſons' tents at Ochtertyre, in the pariſh of Monivaird, chaſing two wolves from the wood of Strowan, which they followed to this part of the High-

lands

lands before they were ſlain ; and theſe are ſaid to have been the laſt wolves heard of in this country.

Eagles of a very large ſize, built their neſts in the mountains of Glenalmond, and committed great devaſtations amongſt the young kids and lambs, until of late, the inhabitants contrived methods to deprive them of their young, in the old eagle's abſence ; by which means, they have forſaken their neſts, and left this country to the no ſmall joy of the inhabitants.

Having now finiſhed our one day's journey, with a great degree of ſatisfaction, we rode on to Perth, where we arrived about ten o' clock at night, after a ride of near forty miles.

FINIS.

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